daily service on Mumbai-Delhi-Patna-Ranchi and *vice versa* route. During summer, in view of high temperatures and short runway at patna, flights ex-Patna can be operated only with a heavy pay load penalty. With a view to minimizing load penalty, ex-Patna, Indian Airliens is constrained to reroute the service IC808/810 and operate the same as Mumbai-Delhi-Ranchi-Patna and *vice versa*, during the period April to mid-July. In case re-routing is not done, the number of seats will be severely restricted for the passengers travelling between Patna and Delhi. The average number of passengers travelling to Patna *via* Ranchi *vis-a-vis* the direct flight to Patna does not reveal any significant decrease during 2002.

Operation of Private Indian Airlines in SAARC Countries

3265. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering allowing Private Indian Airlines companies to operate in SAARC Countries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether they will operate in countries now connected with Indian Airlines and Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No, such decision has been taken.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Plans for maintenance of Aircrafts

3266. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans formulated by Government for maintenance of various aircrafts by Indian Airlines; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Indian Airlines undertakes all major maintenance jobs on all the aircraft types in its fleet. Major Maintenance of Airbus A-320, Boeing 737-200 and Dornier DO-228 is undertaken at the Delhi base, and that of Airbus A-300 aircraft at Mumbai base, of Indian Airlines. Some major checks on A-320 and B-737-200 are